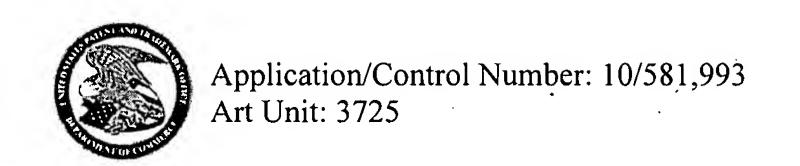
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE United States Patent and Trademark Office Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/581,993	06/07/2006	Tatsuya Okui	12143-0003	1883
22902 CLARK & BR	7590 09/20/2007 ODY		EXAMINER	
1090 VERMO	NT AVENUE, NW	WOLFE, DEBRA M		
SUITE 250 WASHINGTO	N, DC 20005		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	•		3725	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			09/20/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary Examiner		Application No.	Applicant(s)			
Debra Wolfe - The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS. WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. **A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS. WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. **BER 2019, 1908/Philis for note manifold and 11% communication, 1909, and 11% communicatio		10/581,993	OKUI ET AL.			
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1)⊠ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <i>97 June 2006</i> . 2a)□ This action is FINAL. 2b□ This action is non-final. 3)□ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4)☑ Claim(s) <i>f_d</i> is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5)□ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6)□ Claim(s) is/are rejected. 7)□ Claim(s) is/are rejected. 7)□ Claim(s) is/are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. Application Papers 9)□ The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10)□ The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a)□ accepted or b)□ objected to by the Examiner. Applicam may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11)□ The cath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12)☑ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or.(f). a)☑ All b)□ Some * ○□ None of: 1.□ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2.□ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3.☑ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. Attachment(s) 1)□ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3)□ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	 WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING II. Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1 after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period. Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statu Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing. 	DATE OF THIS COMMUNI .136(a). In no event, however, may a d will apply and will expire SIX (6) MO te, cause the application to become A	CATION. reply be timely filed NTHS from the mailing date of this common BANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).			
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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-3, drawn to an extrusion die and an extrusion method for making a stepped metal pipe or tube.

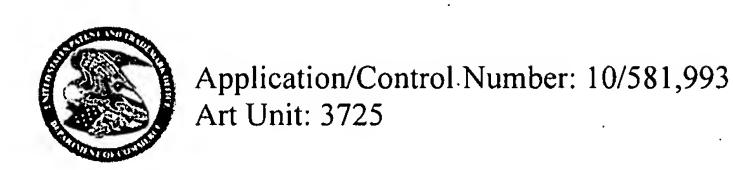
Group II, claim(s) 4, drawn to a stepped metal pipe or tube.

The inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the extrusion die and method of group I are not defined by equation (4) of group II therefore, equation (4) of group II is a different technical feature from group I.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the



inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Debra Wolfe whose telephone number is (571) 272-1904. The examiner can normally be reached Monday - Thursday 7am - 4:30pm with alternating Friday 7am - 3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Derris Banks can be reached at (571) 272-4419. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



Application/Control Number: 10/581,993

Art Unit: 3725

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Debra M Wolfe Examiner

Art Unit 3725

DERRIS H. BANKS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700